GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2082
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to recognise access to health care as a fundamental right of the citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce community health insurance in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): No. There is no such proposal.

(c): The issue of treating access to health care as a fundamental right of the citizen requires an enabling environment in terms of adequate health infrastructure and resource availability.

(d) & (e): There is no such proposal. However, Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) on 1st October, 2007 to provide smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000/- per annum on a family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganized sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. RSBY has since been extended to building and other construction workers {registered under the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996}, street vendors, beedi workers, domestic workers and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year.